

HIST 306: ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HISTORY AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Syllabus Spring 2013
MWF: 1-1:50 Hums 327

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Office: Humanities 324
Hours: MWF 2:30-4 and by appointment
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Overview:

Each week a new digital technique is introduced utilizing data related to ancient Egypt (c. 3250-1000 BCE). Goals for the course include the integration of innovative digital technologies into the historian's methodological toolset, and an introduction to ancient Egyptian history. The class focuses on better visualization of real world data sets, the framing of suitable research questions, and effective hypothesis testing.

Course work includes two exams (midterm and final) administered in class; lab exercises; preparation (250 word prospectus), presentation (15 min), and 1500-2000 word write-up of a group project; and class participation.

Readings:

Purchase via amazon.com or related site:

I. Shaw, ed., *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*. (Oxford Press, 2000, 2002).

A copy of the book is available for use during office hours in Hums 324. In an effort to provide the most current information on research and application, additional readings drawn from journals, books, and edited volumes will be posted to the course website.

Lab Activities:

Most lab activities are designed for student to complete the exercises during designated class periods. Students are required to download the relevant freeware **prior** to attending labs. Failure to do so results in an unexcused absence.

Group Project:

The group presentation and write-up incorporates one or more of the digital technologies discussed during the course applied to a dataset of the students' choosing. The data need not relate to ancient Egypt. Students may work in groups composed of 1-3 persons. A 250 word prospectus is due Feb 20. Results will be reported to the class in a 15 min oral presentation during the final week of class (Apr 15 and 17). The presentation may be a collaborative effort. The prospectus and final write-up (1500-2000 words) should be single authors. Figures and illustrations encouraged. If preferred, students may opt out of the final exam in exchange for writing a 3000-3500 word paper, focusing on the interpretation and impact of results. (Please note: repetitive and/or unclear writing will be marked down.)

Attendance:

Regular attendance of class is expected. If you must miss a class, please contact the instructor in advance via email. Unexcused absences result in deductions to the class participation component of the grade.

Grading:

Written work should demonstrate a thorough and **clear** understanding of historical topics and potentially useful digital methods applied to relevant data sets presented in the lectures and readings. Performance is **not** evaluated based upon technical expertise.

Course grade consists of the following components:

Midterm	15%	Midterm	15%
Final	15%		
Project Prospectus	5%	Prospectus	5%
Group presentation	15%	Presentation	15%
Project write-up (1750-2500 words)	15%	Project write-up (3000-3500)	30%
Lab Exercises	20%	Lab Exercises	20%
Class Participation	15%	Class Participation	15%

Grades are based on successful completion of course requirements as follows: 100-90%=A, 90-80%=B, 80-70%=C, 70-60%=D, <60%=F. To ensure student privacy, the professor will not discuss specific grades via email. If you have questions about your grade on an assignment or for the class, please come to the office hours listed above or by appointment.

Honor System:

Students are reminded of the existence of the Rice Honor System, the basic provisions of which can be found at <http://honor.rice.edu/index.cfm>. For the purposes of this course, it is essential that students:

- a) Give credit where credit is due in all papers by citing sources for all quotations, paraphrased arguments or summaries of basic evidence.
- b) Refrain from copying a fellow student's work

Students with questions should see me prior to the submission of any work which might violate the Honor System.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. In order to maintain confidentiality, please come to office hours or by appointment. Students with disabilities should also contact Disabled Student Services in the Ley Student Center.

Week 1: Jan 7, 9, and 11

Syllabus Overview; Introduction to the digital humanities discipline; incentives and disincentives; overview of Egyptian history; ancient Egyptian Historiography; available data and freeware sources.

Readings:

Patricia Cohen, "Humanities 2.0: Digital Keys for Unlocking the Humanities' Riches," *New York Times*, Nov. 16, 2010 (accessed Jan. 7, 2013), <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/17/arts/17digital.html?ref=books&pagewanted=print>

J. Shaw, "The Humanities, Digitized," *Harvard Magazine*, May-June (2012): 40-44, 73-75.

D. Huyge, "'Battered Bulls': Rock Art Destruction in Egypt," *African Archaeological Review* 15 (1998): 3-11

Supplementary Readings:

J. Tait, "Introduction – '... since the time of the gods'," in J. Tait, ed., *'Never had the Like Occurred': Egypt's view of its past* (London, 2003), pp. 1-13.

E. P. Uphill, "The Ancient Egyptian View of World History," in *Egypt's view of its past*, pp. 15-29.

T. Wilkinson, *Royal annals of ancient Egypt: the Palermo stone and its associated fragments* (London, 2000), pp. 60-81.

Lab 1:

Identifying Digital Waste

Downloads (for week 2):

Autodesk 123D Catch; Google My Maps

Week 2: Jan 14, 16, and 18

Precursors to the Pharaonic state; importance of writing; Khor Abu Subeira South 1; Wadi Abu Tanqurah 1; introduction to Photogrammetry software.

B. Midant-Reynes, "The Naqada Period," *OHAe*, pp. 44-60.

B.B. Williams and T.J. Logan, "The Metropolitan Museum Knife Handle and Aspects of Pharaonic Imagery before Narmer," *JNES* 46 (1987): 245-286.

J.C. Darnell, "Iconographic Attraction, Iconographic Syntax, and Tableaux of Royal Ritual Power in the Pre- and Proto-Dynastic Rock Inscriptions of the Theban Western Desert," *Archéo-Nil* 19 (2009): 83-107.

L. Lippiello, "Appendix D: Epigraphic Methodology," *Landscapes of Ancient Egyptian Religion: Rock Art as Indicator for Formal Ritual Spaces during the Formative Stage of the Egyptian State*. Unpublished PhD Dissertation (Yale University, 2012), pp. 359-374

A. Curci, A. Urcia, L. Lippiello, and M. C. Gatto, "Using digital technologies to document rock art in the Aswan-Kom Ombo region (Egypt)," *Sahara* 23 (2012), pp. 75-86

3-D Risk Mapping, *Theory and practice on Terrestrial Laser Scanning Training material based on practical applications* (2008), pp. 12-18, 33-35; optional 19-32.

Week 3: Jan 23, 25

**** Mon, Jan 21 (MLK day, university classes do not meet)**

Photogrammetry, Laser Scanners, cont.

Lab 2:

3-D Reconstruction of Varied Surfaces

Download (for week 3):

Google Earth

Week 4: Jan 28, 30, Feb 1

Military conquest in the south, cultural conquest in the north; importance of writing; rock art evidence (late fourth and early third millennia BCE); Nag el Hamdulab; Scorpion Tableau, Gebel Tjauti.

Readings:

K. Bard, "The Emergence of the State," in Shaw, ed., *OHAe*, pp. 61-88.

J.C. Darnell, *Theban Desert Road Survey in the Egyptian Western Desert* 1, OIP 119 (Chicago: Oriental Institute, 2002), pp. 9-24.

S. Hendrickx, N. Swelim, F. Raffaele, M. Eyckerman, R. F. Friedman, "A lost Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic royal scene from Gharb Aswan," *Archéo-Nil* 19 (2009): 167-176.

Supplementary Readings:

M. Campagno, "Kinship, Concentration of Population and the Emergence of the State in the Nile Valley," *OLA* 205, 2011, pp. 1229-1242.

S. Hendrickx and M. Gatto, "A Rediscovered Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic Royal Scene from Gharb Aswan (Upper Egypt)," *Sahara* 20 (2009): 147-150.

Pictures: Oldest Pharaoh Rock Art Rediscovered in Egypt. *Daily News: National Geographic*, <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2012/11/pictures/121129-oldest-pharaoh-rock-art-egypt-science/>

Lab 3:

Tracing Early Dynastic Military Routes with Google Earth

Week 5: Feb 4, 6, 8

Egypt and Nubian foreign relations during the Old Kingdom; Autobiography of Harkhuf; Pyramid builders III-VI Dynasty.

Readings:

J. Malek, "The Old Kingdom," in Shaw, ed., *OHAe*, pp. 89-117.

J.C. Darnell, *Theban Desert Road Survey in the Egyptian Western Desert* 1, OIP 119 (Chicago: Oriental Institute, 2002), pp. 28-29.

D. O'Connor, "The Locations of Yam and Kush and Their Historical Implications," *JARCE* 23 (1986): 27-50.

Autobiographies of Weni; Harkhuf; Ka (in translation)

Lab 4:

Visualization/Spatial Mapping of Routes with ArcGIS

Week 6: Feb 11, 13, 15

Pepy II; Autobiography of Harkhuf; Decline of OK; Ankhtifi- tomb at Mo'alla, nomarch; Antef I-Montuhotep I- Antef II- Antef III; Herakleopolitan-Theban War- alluded to in Teachings of Merykara and the Tale of the Eloquent Peasant.

Readings

S. Seidlmayer, "The First Intermediate Period," *OHAe*, pp. 118-147.

J. C. Darnell, "The Route of Eleventh Dynasty Expansion into Nubia: An Interpretation Based on the Rock Inscriptions of Tjehemau at Abisko," *ZÄS* 131 (2004): 23-37.

J.C. Darnell, *Theban Desert Road Survey in the Egyptian Western Desert* 1, OIP 119 (Chicago: Oriental Institute, 2002), pp. 30-54.

J. C. Darnell, "The Message of King Wahankh Antef II to Khety," *ZÄS* 124 (1997): 101-108.

Week 7: Feb 18, 20, 22

**Prospectus due Feb 20

**Midterm Feb 22

End of FIP; Deir el Ballas inscription; Rise of Middle Kingdom; Wadi Shatt el-Rigal

Readings

G. Callender, "The Middle Kingdom Renaissance," in *Oxford History*, pp. 148-183.

Do. Arnold, "Amenemhat I and the Early Twelfth Dynasty at Thebes," *MMJ* 26 (1991): 5-48.

G. Callender, "The Middle Kingdom Renaissance J. Bourriau, "The Second Intermediate Period," *OHAe*, pp. 185-217.

translation excerpts from J.C. Darnell, "The Rock Inscriptions of Tjehemau at Abisko," *ZÄS* 130 (2003),," *OHAe*, pp. 148-183.

translation excerpts from J.C. Darnell, "A Stela of Tutankhamun from the Region of Kurkur Oasis," *SAK* 31 (2003).

Download (for week 9):
Export to KML.pdf

Week 8: Spring Break

**Spring Break, no classes meet

Week 9: Mar 4, 6, 8

Recap FIP thru MK. Decline of MK; beginning of SIP; Hyksos.

Readings

J. Bourriau, "The Second Intermediate Period," in Shaw, ed., *Oxford History of Ancient Egypt* (Oxford, 2002), pp. 185-217.

Lab 5:

FIP→MK Military Movements

*****following schedule is subject to change*****

Week 10: Mar 11, 13, 15

Second Intermediate Period (cont.); rise of New Kingdom; Kamose and Ahmose

Readings

Second Stela of Kahmose (in translation).

H. S. Smith and A. Smith, "A reconsideration of the Kamose texts," *ZÄS* 103 (1976): 48-76.

Lab 5 (cont.):

SIP Military Movements

Week 11: Mar 18, 20, 22

New Kingdom; Hatshepsut voyages to Punt; Thutmose III Annals; Boundary Stelae of Thutmose I and III at Kurgus; Annals of Thutmose III at Karnak; Fisher's Integrative Analysis

Readings

K. Kitchen, "The Land of Punt," in *The Archaeology of Africa*, eds. T. Shaw, et al. (London, 1993).

Thutmose III Annals (in translation)

L. Lippiello, Landscapes of Ancient Egyptian Religion: Rock Art as Indicator for Formal Ritual Spaces during the Formative Stage of the Egyptian State. Unpublished PhD Dissertation (Yale University, 2012), pp. 123-137.

K. Fisher, "Placing Social Interaction: An Integrative Approach to Analyzing Past Built Environments," *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 28 (2009): 439-457.

Lab 6 (optional):

Visualization, Viewshed

Week 12: Mar 25, 27

*Mar 29 - Mid-term Recess, university classes do not meet.

Amarna Period; relations between Egypt and the Near East; Amarna letters

Readings

R. Cohen and R. Westbrook, eds., *Amarna Diplomacy, the Beginnings of International Relations* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000).

*additional readings added

Week 13: Apr 1

*Apr 3 and 5 Groups meet to work on semester project, class does not meet.

Post-Amarna Period

J. C. Darnell and C. Manassa, *Tutankhamun's Armies Battle and Conquest in Ancient Egypt's Late Eighteenth Dynasty* (Wiley, 2007)

*additional readings added

Week 14: Apr 8, 10, 12

Current State of the study of ancient Egyptian History.

Download (for week 14):

Google Ngram Viewer; Wordle

Lab 7 (optional):

Is recent history influencing the study of ancient history?

Week 15: Apr 15, 17, 19

**April 15 and 17 - Group presentations

**April 19 - Final Exam

Finals Week

May 1 - Project write-ups due